

APPENDIX



INSTRUCTOR REFERENCE SHEET - UNIT ONE, EXTENSION TWO

(1 OF 4)

1. BEAVER TAIL (REPLICA)

- A beaver slaps its tail on the water as an alarm or warning to other beavers.
- It is used as a rudder while swimming.
- It helps the beaver hold its body upright while chewing on trees.
- Fat, necessary for survival, is stored in it.
- A beaver uses it neither to slap mud on dams nor carry things.
- Some people use it to make stew.

2. AMERICAN TOAD (REPLICA)

- This is the only species of toad found in the BWCAW.
- Females grow to five inches in length, males only three inches.
- Its color is brown, gray, or reddish brown.
- Its mating call is a long high-pitched trill which can be heard in late May and June.
- It eats worms, slugs, and insects.
- It can't give you warts, but it does deter predators by secreting a poison from glands located behind its eyes. Always wash your hands after handling a toad to prevent the irritating substance from reaching your eyes.

3. WHITE TAILED DEER ANTLER

- In most species of deer, males annually grow and shed one pair.
- Antlers are bony outgrowths of the frontal bone.
- Antlers differ from horns. Horns usually aren't shed.
- Bucks usually shed their antlers in December after the mating season.
- Antler regrowth begins in March.
- During spring and summer, antlers are covered with a furry skin called velvet which provides nutrients to the growing antlers.



APPENDIX

INSTRUCTOR REFERENCE SHEET - (2 OF 4) UNIT ONE, EXTENSION TWO

- Growth stops by the end of August. Bucks rub off the dead velvet by scraping them on tree trunks.
- A buck uses its antlers when it battles another buck for possession of a doe. The battle can end in the death of one or both bucks, but this rarely happens.
- Rodents such as rabbits and mice chew on dropped antlers to obtain calcium and other minerals.

4. MOOSE SCAT

- It is usually pellet shaped, up to 2 inches long.
- It has a grainy or sawdust appearance because of a vegetarian diet.
- Pellets tend to be dry in fall, winter, and spring, but they are lumpy masses in the summer when moose feed on more succulent foods.
- A site of droppings contains 70-200 pellets.

5. WOLF TRACK (CASTING)

- The front foot is larger than hind foot.
- In mud or wet sand, the front foot track will measure 4 to 5 inches long (excluding the claws) by 3.75 to 5 inches wide.
- The front toes spread more than the hind ones.
- The hind track measures 3.75 to 4.75 inches long by 3 to 4.5 inches wide.

6. MOREL MUSHROOM (REPLICA)

- It is the official Minnesota mushroom.
- It is found in the spring after a good rain.
- It looks like pine cones when they first push up through the ground.
- For many people, it is a delicacy.
- It is easily recognized by its cone-shaped cap that is pitted and ridged like a honeycomb.
- It can be confused with the False Morel which is not edible. The ridges are folded into convolutions like a brain. They bulge outward on the False Morel whereas Morels are pitted inward.

APPENDIX



INSTRUCTOR REFERENCE SHEET - UNIT ONE, EXTENSION TWO

(3 OF 4)

- NEVER eat a wild mushroom, or anything else growing wild, unless an experienced person positively identifies it as edible. Some people are allergic to Morels.

7. BRACKET FUNGUS

- It is also called Shelf Fungus.
- Many different types are found in the BWCAW.
- It is found growing on trees or dead wood.
- Mycelium (fine root-like threads) invades living trees and turns the hardwood into a brown charcoal-like mass.
- The visible brackets are the fruiting bodies of the plant living within the tree.
- One type that grows up to 24 inches wide is called the Artists Fungus because artists paint pictures on the flat side.
- Most Bracket Fungi have tiny pores on the underside where the reproductive spores are produced. Some types, like commercial mushrooms seen in stores, have gills instead of pores.
- Compare Bracket Fungus to Morels, which produce spores within the deep crevices of the cap.

8. JACK PINE CONE

- A slender pine found in northern North America.
- Fire is very important to the growth of jack pines.
- Fire restores soil nutrients needed by jack pines.
- A temperature of 116 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to soften the resin and allow the scales to open and release the seeds. The heat from a ground fire is hot enough to do this.
- Jack pines need full sunlight to grow. A fire opens large areas to sunlight.
- Many cones remain on the tree and can be sealed by resins for as long as 25 years.
- The Forest Service allows controlled burns to encourage Jack pine regeneration. Many animals, such as the Kirtlands Warbler, depend on the jack pine forest habitat for nesting.



APPENDIX

INSTRUCTOR REFERENCE SHEET - UNIT ONE, EXTENSION TWO

(4 OF 4)

9. BLACK BEAR TRACK (CASTING)

- Bears walk on the entire foot, not just on their toes.
- A bear track has a shape much like a human footprint.
- Toenail marks are visible.
- The average size of the front foot is 3.75 inches wide by 4.25 inches long.
- The average size of the hind foot is 3.5 inches wide by 7 inches long.
- The front foot has a separate round heel pad which often doesn't show in the track.
- The track shows five toes and a large hind sole.

10. WHITE TAIL DEER FUR

- The head, neck, back, and sides of an adult are reddish-brown for three or four months in summer, and brownish-gray in fall, winter, and early spring.
- Hair is longer in winter, which gives the deer a bulkier appearance.
- The individual hairs of the winter coat are thick and hollow. The hollow space in each hair traps body heat which keeps the deer warm in winter.
- The throat, belly, rump, edging, and underside of the tail are white. When a deer is alarmed, the tail raises and the white "flag" alerts other deer to possible danger.
- Fawns are spotted to look like the sun-dappled forest floor. Fawns have almost no scent, making it very difficult for predators to find them.

11. BLACK BEAR FUR

- Black bears are almost all black except for a brownish snout. Some may have a white spot on the chest.
- A few are all brown. They are referred to as "cinnamon" bears.
- Bear fur thickens as the weather becomes colder.